A case under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act was registered at Police Station, Hari Nagar. A warder has already been suspended and another is being chargesheeted.

(c) Amongst the steps being taken are :—

(i) intensification of frisking of prisoners and visitors ;

(ii) increase in the frequency of surprise searches of prisoners and wards ; and

(iii) strict action against prisoners/staff whenever narcotic/smack is recovered.

Killings of Paramilitary Personnel in Punjab

242. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of police and para-military personnel killed in encounters in Punjab during the last six months ;

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to restore confidence in police there ;

(c) whether Government have analysed the reasons for sudden spurt in violence in Punjab ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action Government have taken to curb the violence ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) According to available information received from the Government of Punjab 174 paramilitary personnel and policemen have been killed in Punjab during the last 6 months. Specific information about number of paramilitary personnel and policemen killed in encounters is not readily available.

(b) to (d) Law and Order being a State subject, it is for the State Government to devise strategies for dealing with the problems like terrorism. Central Government keeps in close touch with the Governments of the State affected by terrorism and extends all possible assistance as and when required.

Role of North Eastern Council

243. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 273 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th February, 1992 and state :

(a) whether Government have since taken any decision to change the role of the North Eastern Council ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and if not, by when Government are likely to take a decision in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) The Government have not taken any decision to change the role of the North Eastern Council.

(b) The question does not arise.

Thefts on Running Trains

244. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of thefts that took place on running trains during the year 1992 till date ; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to prevent such thefts during the same period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) and (b) The data regarding the cases of theft on running trains during the year 1992 have not been compiled by the Central agencies. The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime on running trains is the responsibility of the Government Railway Police which functions under the

control of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Measures to solve the problems relating to thefts on the running trains and to minimise such incidents are to be taken by them.

Terrorist Activities in Gujarat

245. SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that terrorist activities are on the increase in Gujarat, specially in the border areas of Kutch and in Dang; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, and what remedial steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) and (b) Instances of terrorist activities in Gujarat have come to notice. Law and Order is a State subject. The State Government takes all remedial steps to deal with the situation and Central Government provides all possible assistance to Government as and when required.

Streamlining of the Crime Investigating Agencies in Delhi

246. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article published in the Hindustan Times dated the 12th April, 1992 revealing that over 50 per cent of the guilty, who are involved in criminal offences, go scot-free because of poor standards of investigating team of police officers in various important cases and also on account of deliberate attempt on the part of the police stations in the Capital to twist basic facts stated in the First Information Reports;

(b) whether it is also a fact that graph of various offences in Delhi has been rising steadily despite all claims by Government of unearthing criminal gangs by the Police;

(c) if so, what are the reasons thereof including passing of severe strictures against investigating agency recently by the trial courts; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to streamline the functioning of both the investigating and prosecuting agencies in the capital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) Yes, Sir. The Delhi Police has reported that a number of persons against whom criminal cases have been registered have been acquitted by the courts but it is not correct that it is on account of poor standard of investigation or deliberate twisting of the basic facts stated in the First Information Report by the police officers.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Over the years there has been an increase in the overall crime rate in Delhi. The main reasons for the increase in crime are rapid urbanisation and increase in population. In few cases, the courts have passed strictures against the investigation officers for defective investigation. Departmental action is taken against the police officers whenever strictures are passed against them.

(d) Amongst the steps taken are:—

(i) Refresher courses for police officers are being conducted to familiarise them fully with the relevant provisions of law and their amendments from time to time.

(ii) SHOs/IOs are being impressed upon to ensure proper 'pairvi' of the cases in courts.

(iii) Scientific methods of investigation are being adopted.

(iv) The SHOs are impressed upon to associate public witnesses.